UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION DECLASSIFIED BY 6076 ... CATEGORY 2 ... DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE 11/6/78

TO : Mr. Sullivan

DATE: 2/18/66

FROM : F. J. Baumgardner

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 - Mr. Bland
1 - Mr. Bates

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

100-106670-2306

Sergeant Edward McClellen, Human Relations Unit, Chicago, Illinois, Police Department, advised that on 2/3/66 Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), met with Reverend John P. Cody, Archbishop of the Chicago Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church. The meeting was in the nature of a courtesy visit, at King's request, during which King reportedly informed the Archbishop of the nature and purpose of his campaign to end segregation and discrimination against the Negro in Chicago. King has selected Chicago to be the site of the first SCLC invasion into the northern civil rights problem. It is recognized by King that the future of his organization may well rest in the success or failure of the SCLC Chicago program.

DECLASSIFIED BY ... ON 3/12/86

King stated at a press conference, after his meeting with the Archbishop, that he and Archbishop Cody were in substantial agreement upon the goals they were both seeking and intended to keep in touch with each other. King declared he was hopeful of the active participation of priests and nuns in connection with his SCLC program in Chicago and had gained the impression from the Archbishop that such participation was a matter of individual conscience and would not be a matter of discipline insofar as the Diocesan hierarchy was concerned.

King continues to rely heavily on the advice of his New York foursome, Stanley Levison, Harry Wachtel, Clarence Jones and Bayard Rustin, in connection with all major SCLC problems and activities. These individuals have all been members of the Communist Party or Communist Party front groups in the past. As long as King utilizes these advisors with subversive backgrounds, the danger remains that his SCLC activities will be influenced by communist-oriented thinking. Should communists or communist sympathizers succeed in influencing the SCLC Chicago program, it would be a major breakthrough for the communists in the civil rights field.

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Baumgardner to Sullivan
Re: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
100-106670

King's meeting with Archbishop Cody has been discussed with Special Agent in Charge Marlin W. Johnson of our Chicago Office. Johnson has given assurance that he can talk to Archbishop Cody in complete confidence and Archbishop Cody will not violate this confidence. Bureau files show that Archbishop Cody, while serving as a Bishop in the St. Louis Archdiocese in the early 1950's, CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE At that time, he reportedly had an excellent knowledge [redacted]

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It is felt it would be desirable to have Special Agent in Charge Johnson brief Archbishop Cody regarding the subversive backgrounds of King's key advisors and to emphasize to the Archbishop the vast influence these individuals exert on King. In addition, Special Agent in Charge Johnson would disclose to the Archbishop King's own sordid activities. Such a briefing would benefit the Archbishop in determining the degree of cooperation his archdiocese will extend to King's program in Chicago and would probably result in a lessening of King's influence in Chicago. This would be a serious blow to any possible communist attempt to exploit King's program in Chicago.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Assistant Director Sullivan be authorized to telephonically contact Special Agent in Charge Johnson and instruct him to brief Archbishop Cody regarding the strong influence being exerted on King by his key advisors with communist backgrounds and to inform him of King's own hypocritical behavior. Special Agent in Charge Johnson will inform the Archbishop that under no circumstance may there ever be any attribution to the FBI for the information furnished him.

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